

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (e) as being anticipated by Sugimoto(U.S. Patent No. 6,409,170). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sugimoto teaches a gaming machine having an outlet for paying out gaming media and a receiver for receiving the paid-out gaming media. The receiver is disposed outward of the outlet with respect to the gaming machine. The gaming machine includes an illumination arrangement for emitting light, a first light path, a second light path, an aperture and a reflection surface. The first light path defines a first path of propagation of a first portion of the light issued by said illumination arrangement. The first path of propagation extends to the receiver. The second light path defines a second path of propagation of a second portion of the light issued by said illumination arrangement. The aperture is disposed in the first path of propagation for introducing the light emitted by said internal light source into the interior of the outlet. The reflection surface reflects the light toward the outlet thereby illuminating the receiver from the interior of the outlet.

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a front panel, a medal storage unit and a guide member. Claim 1 recites that the front panel is attached to a front of a main body and being formed an opening. Claim 1 also recites that the medal storage unit is attached to the front panel and is configured to store a medal provided from the opening. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the guide member is attached to the main body and is configured to guide the medal into the opening. Further, claim 1 recites that the opening has a projection disposed in a vicinity thereof and the projection is projected from an inner face of the guide member.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 1. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach the opening has a projection disposed in a vicinity thereof and the projection is projected from an inner face of the guide

member. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 5, as amended, is directed to a gaming machine includes a front panel, a medal storage unit and a guide member. Claim 5 recites that the front panel is attached to a front of a main body and is formed with an opening. Claim 5 also recites that the medal storage unit is attached to the front panel and is configured to store a medal provided from the opening. Claim 5 further recites that the guide member is attached to the main body and is configured to guide the medal into the opening. Additionally, claim 5 recites that the guide member has a slanted bottom surface defining a plane that extends through the opening and into the metal storage unit. Furthermore, claim 5 recites that a lower face of the opening is positioned below the plane.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claim 5 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the guide member has a slanted bottom surface defining a plane that extends through the opening and into the metal storage unit and a lower face of the opening is positioned below the plane. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 5 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at lease for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto in view of Casanova et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0130011). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Casanova discloses a coin processing machine that includes a coin input region for receiving said coins, a coin processing region for processing the coins and

a coin output region for receiving the coins that have been processed from the coin processing region. The processing machine includes a coin path leading from the coin input region, through the coin processing region and into the coin output region. The coin path is partially defined by a coin-impact surface made of a laminated metal, preferably laminated steel. The laminated metal acts to absorb more of the energy for the impact of the coins and, thus, reduces the noise levels produced by coins.

Claim 2 is directed to a gaming machine that includes a front panel, a medal storage unit, a guide member and a cover member. Claim 2 recites that the front panel is attached to a front of a main body and is formed with an opening. Claim 2 also recites that the medal storage unit is attached to the front panel and is configured to store a medal provided from the opening. Further, claim 2 recites that the guide member is attached to the main body and is configured to guide the medal into the opening. Additionally, claim 2 recites that the cover member is configured to cover the guide member and has a projection disposed in a vicinity of the opening.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 2. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art, alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest that the cover member is configured to cover the guide member and has a projection disposed in a vicinity of the opening. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 is allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Sugimoto in view of Davies (U.S. Patent No. 4,326,621). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Davies teaches a coin detecting apparatus for distinguishing genuine coins from slugs.

Claim 4 depends from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claim is allowable at least for the reasons claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features it recites.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

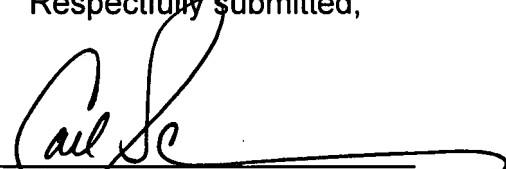
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same,

the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (3 months)

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